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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE ON WESTERVILLE ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2009

(Columbus – November 6, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has completed the purpose and need for the Westerville Road (State Route 3) Corridor Study. The results of this phase of the study will be presented at an open house scheduled Tuesday, November 17, 2009, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Blendon Township Senior Center, 6330 S. Hempstead Road, Westerville. A short presentation will be held at 6 p.m. The public is urged to attend the public meeting and provide comments.

This study reviews current travel conditions in the Westerville Road corridor from north of Morse Road to south of I-270 and will identify improvements that are needed by the year 2030. Improvements that may be recommended include additional travel lanes, intersection improvements, access management, and improved bicycle and pedestrian access. The study is funded by the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

“The study will provide the citizens with a plan to upgrade the corridor to better accommodate all users including motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians,” states Nick Gill, MORPC’s assistant director of transportation.

“The Westerville Road corridor currently serves as many as 23,000 vehicles a day with daily traffic volumes projected to increase by as much as 20% by 2030. Implementation of the recommendations contained in this study will have a profound effect on existing communities in northeast Columbus and Franklin County, as well as new communities developing over the next 20 years, as use of the corridor increases both for local and commuter traffic. The study also addresses safety and alternative transportation (bicycle, pedestrian and transit) concerns,” states David Paul, President, Northland Community Council.

Public comments on the study will be accepted through December 1, 2009. For more information, visit www.morpc.org or call Ethan Ortman at 614-233-4153.

MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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